

# NEWS AND Gossip OF FRATERNAL CIRCLES IN WASHINGTON

## Bonds May Be Sold to Finance the Country's Preparedness Plans Social Activities of Posts and Navy Yards Told in Dispatches

The past week has been notable in the regularity and certainty of the newspaper regulations concerning the President's policy of national defense.

There has been lacking none of the details of personnel increase, organization and equipment to make up the consummate plan which Mr. Wilson intends to submit to Congress in December for its guidance and service legislation.

This approval of the War and Navy department projects must be tentative and least in relation to the completed scheme since neither the Secretary of War nor the Secretary of the Navy finally passed on the estimates of cost until Friday. That is a matter now being considered in both departments and at the Treasury Department and with due and proper consideration of possible changes in personnel and increase in material.

Mr. Wilson has consulted with some of the leaders in Congress, including Mr. Pugh, chairman of the House Naval Committee, and Mr. Hay, chairman of the House Military Committee. The consultations have to do in particular with the equipment in Congress toward national defense and, as well, with the ways and means of meeting the additional expense created by the new and enlarged program of preparedness.

### Wilson Gives Support

It is quite evident that the President intends to give his support to the departmental measures of relief and improvement, and it is imaginable that those measures will be revised, in the first instance, to come within the scope of the Presidential sanction, influenced, as it is, by the heads of the Appropriations Committee.

There is no escaping the vital factor of expense and one of the things to which the administration officials are giving present heed is the extent to which they will have public sympathy and support in any extraordinary plan for acquiring the necessary funds.

If it is found possible, without incurring grave political risks, to resort to a sale of bonds, for example, it will be that much easier to do something extensive in the way of service legislation; otherwise, the administration can hope to accomplish very little in an exceptional year in the present state of the country's finances and its prospective income for the next fiscal year.

There is an impression that the Sixty-fourth Congress will be called upon to outline a program covering several years which shall be inaugurated to a limited extent during the next session, and leave for the second session and succeeding Congresses the task of progressive action.

### Navy Program Interesting

Of importance was Secretary Daniels' announcement last week of an intention

to recommend to Congress a naval building program to extend over a period of five years.

"Of course," he says, "no Congress can bind another, but if Congress would appropriate on the basis of a five-year building program plan, we could go forward with construction more rapidly than hitherto."

The details of the naval building program have not been determined, the naval general board being engaged upon the number of ships of various types and the chief characteristics of the vessels, as it has been decided to include in the 1916 building program battle cruisers and battleships in equal number, certainly two of each type and perhaps four; destroyers, of such new design as is suggested, and submarines.

The general board in its report this year will supply the Secretary of the Navy with the arguments in favor of the retention of the battleships, destroyers, and submarines, and of the admission of the battle cruiser as the leading features in the building program. There are, of course, the usual differences of expert view as to the relative value of the various types of vessels.

There is also the usual discussion of the relative value of armament, protection and speed, but the present indications are that the battleship of the 1916 program will not be materially different from the design of 1915, unless the English-German fleets have their long-deferred collision and furnish a demonstration that will aid in the determination of the future.

The influence of the submarine continues to provide the perplexing problem of the most effective method of battleship defense against it. The battle cruiser, as it is called, will possess the maximum speed, that of 35 knots, on the theory that if we are to have a ship whose speed is an essential we may as well go to the limit.

Secretary Daniels has taken a keen interest in the increase of the facilities and resources of that branch of service activity and has indicated his intention that the navy shall continue to be the practical value of an adequate equipment in that direction. The recommendations pertaining to the personnel of the navy will be made to the Congress.

There is no present prospect of any change in the army regulations prescribing a standard of physical fitness for active duty. Some effort in that direction was made, and the subject has been discussed by the general staff. A report was made to the Chief of Staff on the subject, but the Secretary of War was disinclined to make any change in the general orders at this time, believing that the benefits derived from the test will justify the continuance of the method.

It is probable, however, that there will be a renewal of the agitation in favor of a standard of physical fitness for active duty.

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of officers and with much less expense, for, it is pointed out, the travel involved in bringing officers to the places of the test rides is a heavy one. It has been suggested that the War Department adopt some such plan as that of the Navy Department and require army officers to indulge regularly in physical exercise with, perhaps, a monthly "hike" or some other form of activity which will be its equivalent.

Information has come from the superintendent of the Military Academy from the detachment of engineers at West Point of five enlisted men, who, it is learned have joined the military force in Canada. It has been suggested that steps be taken to prevent desertions for this purpose.

There is no evidence that any effort has been made to recruit men for Canada other than the letters from the deserters addressed to their former commanders at West Point. One such letter has been forwarded to Washington and reports that those who have joined the Canadian forces receive \$30 a month, with an additional \$20 if a man is married, and that if the soldier is not killed in the war, the government will give him 100 acres of land; and the writer concludes with the postscript:

"Tell the gang it's O. K."

There is nothing to indicate that the Canadian government has anything to do with this appeal. Canada, of course, has a right to offer long and inducements to deserters, and it is not unusual for soldiers in our army, this government would have no cause for diplomatic complaint if deserters from the United States army took advantage of these inducements.

Desertion, like other military offenses, is regarded as a political offense, and political offenders are, as a rule, not extraditable. In many extradition treaties military deserters are expressly excluded. There is no mention of such offenders in the extradition treaties between the United States and Great Britain. Whatever steps are taken to prevent further desertions of the character described should be taken by the United States within its own territory, such as increased vigilance to prevent soldiers from leaving their posts under circumstances which would permit them to reach the Canadian boundary without being apprehended, or to effect their immediate apprehension after their unauthorized absence is discovered.

Reports from the surgeons of the various military departments continue to furnish a confirmatory indication regarding the efficacy of vaccination against typhoid in the army. For the present it has been determined that enlisted men shall be vaccinated once in four years, while commissioned officers will be vaccinated every five years, two courses of treatment being considered sufficient, after which the individual is considered immune to typhoid. The frequency and continuance of vaccination against typhoid, however, is a matter which can not be finally determined without further experiment for duty.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip H. Sheridan have dinner Saturday for Capt. and Mrs. Edward A. Sturges, Miss Wilder, Miss Scott, Miss Glasgow, Lieut. Sloan Doak, Alexander James and Edward St. J. Greble.

Capt. and Mrs. Edward A. Sturges have as their guest Miss Cornelia Wilder, from New York.

Mrs. Connelley, wife of Capt. William M. Connelley, is visiting relatives in New York.

Capt. and Mrs. Edward T. Donnelly have as their guest Miss Mildred Green, who, having recovered from a recent attack of grip.

Capt. and Mrs. Charles G. Mortimer have opened their quarters, No. 2.

Lieut. John M. Eager was a visitor on Saturday at the quarters of the cavalry camp at Falls Church, Va.

Mrs. Paine, wife of Lieut. George H. Paine, has returned from a visit in Gettysburg, Pa.

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So far, arrangements have been made for the attendance of teams from marine barracks at Fort Belvoir, N. H.; barracks, Portsmouth, N. H.; marine barracks, Boston, Mass.; marine barracks, New York; marine barracks, Philadelphia; marine barracks, Washington, D. C.; marine barracks, Indian Head, Md.; marine barracks, Norfolk, Va.; marine barracks, Annapolis, Md.; marine barracks, Charleston, S. C.; and marine barracks, Port Royal, S. C.

Dr. J. Craig King left Sunday for Washington Barracks for duty.

Mrs. Parker, wife of Lieut. Edwin P. Parker, returned from Plattsburg, N. Y., and has opened her house for the winter.

Capt. Edward T. Donnelly received orders last week sending him to Fort Sill, Okla., for duty.

Lieut. and Mrs. David H. Scott have moved into quarters No. 19.

Lieut. John G. Winder returned to the post after visiting in New York.

Col. Wilber E. Wilder left last week to visit in New York.

A large number from the post recently attended the wedding of Lieut. Harry Pfeil to Miss Mary Hobbs, daughter of Brig. Gen. and Mrs. Charles Wood Hobbs, at All Souls' Church, Washington, D. C.

Battery D, commanded by Capt. Charles G. Mortimer, with Lieut. Richard C. Burleson, Lieut. Edwin P. Parker, and Lieut. Philip L. Thurber, arrived Wednesday from Plattsburg, N. Y.

The Fifth Cavalry Band has returned after giving a series of concerts at Falls Church, Va.

A. L. Smith, of the Y. M. C. A., has resumed the showing of moving pictures for the entertainment of the enlisted men at the Y. M. C. A. building.

The evenings for the pictures are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Mr. Smith is giving moving pictures at the cavalry camp on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week.

Mrs. Burleson, wife of Lieut. Richard C. Burleson, arrived Wednesday from Plattsburg, N. Y., and has opened her house for the winter.

All the officers and ladies are invited to attend the ride to be given tomorrow in Rock Creek Park by Melvin C. Hazen, of Washington, and Capt. William Mitchell, Signal Corps.

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